

*Attorney Docket MAE 295***IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended): A medium cassette that holds a stack of print medium, comprising:

a medium guide member including a first member and a second member, the second member supporting part of the stack of print medium, said medium guide member being movable in a direction toward the stack of print medium, wherein the second member having includes a tapered portion with a tapered edge that extends from a middle portion of the second member leftward and rightward with respect to the direction; forward end portion; and

a supporting member ~~having~~ including a groove formed therein by which said medium guide member is guided to move to and from the stack of print medium;

wherein when said medium guide member is moved in ~~[[a]]~~ the direction toward the stack of print medium in the groove to a predetermined position, the first member abuts an end of the stack of print medium and the tapered ~~forward end~~ portion slides under the stack of print medium.

2. (currently amended): The medium cassette according to Claim 1, wherein the tapered forward end portion extends further downward below a bottom of the stack of print medium.

3. (currently amended): ~~The medium cassette according to Claim 1;~~

A medium cassette that holds a stack of print medium, comprising:

a medium guide member including a first member and a second member, the second member including a tapered forward end portion; and

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a supporting member including a groove formed therein by which said medium guide member is guided to move to and from the stack of print medium;

wherein when said medium guide member is moved in a direction toward the stack of print medium in the groove to a predetermined position, the first member abuts an end of the stack of print medium and the tapered forward end portion slides under the stack of print medium;

wherein the second member has an edge that extends from a middle portion of the second member leftward and rightward with respect to the direction;

wherein the edge becomes further away from the stack of print medium than the middle portion with increasing distance from the middle portion.

4. (currently amended): The medium cassette according to Claim ~~[[1,]]~~ 3, wherein the edge extends from the middle portion to describe either a curved line or a straight line.

5. (original): A medium feeding apparatus that incorporates the medium cassette according to Claim 4.

6. (currently amended): ~~The medium cassette according to Claim 1;~~

A medium cassette that holds a stack of print medium, comprising:

a medium guide member including a first member and a second member, the second member including a tapered forward end portion; and

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a supporting member including a groove formed therein by which said medium guide member is guided to move to and from the stack of print medium;

wherein when said medium guide member is moved in a direction toward the stack of print medium in the groove to a predetermined position, the first member abuts an end of the stack of print medium and the tapered forward end portion slides under the stack of print medium;

wherein said medium guide member further includes a first projection that extends from a bottom surface of the second member through the groove;

wherein the first projection includes second projections that project substantially leftward and rightward with respect to the direction so that the supporting member is sandwiched between the bottom surface of the second member and the second projections.

7. (original): The medium cassette according to Claim 6, wherein the second projections include a first set of the second projections that extends over a first distance and a second set of the second projections that extends over a second distance.

8. (currently amended): The medium cassette according to Claim 7, wherein each of the second projections ~~[[has]]~~ includes a plurality of stepped portions;

wherein the supporting member can be held in a sandwiched relation between the bottom surface of the second member and a corresponding one of the plurality of stepped portions.

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9. (original): A medium feeding apparatus that incorporates the medium cassette according to Claim 8.

10. (original): A medium feeding apparatus that incorporates the medium cassette according to Claim 7.

11. (original): A medium feeding apparatus that incorporates the medium cassette according to Claim 1.

12. (original): The medium cassette according to Claim 1, further comprising a medium-supporting member on which the stack of print medium is placed, wherein said medium guide member can be mounted on the medium-supporting member.

13. (currently amended): The medium cassette according to Claim 12, wherein said medium guide member includes a locking member and the medium-supporting member ~~[[has]]~~ includes a recess formed therein by a drawing operation;

wherein said medium guide member is locked at a predetermined position when the locking member is received in the recess.

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14. (currently amended): ~~The medium cassette according to Claim 13;~~

A medium cassette that holds a stack of print medium, comprising:

a medium guide member including a first member and a second member, the second member including a tapered forward end portion; and

a supporting member including a groove formed therein by which said medium guide member is guided to move to and from the stack of print medium;

wherein when said medium guide member is moved in a direction toward the stack of print medium in the groove to a predetermined position, the first member abuts an end of the stack of print medium and the tapered forward end portion slides under the stack of print medium;

further comprising a medium-supporting member on which the stack of print medium is placed, wherein said medium guide member can be mounted on the medium-supporting member;

wherein said medium guide member includes a locking member and the medium-supporting member has a recess formed therein by a drawing operation;

wherein said medium guide member is locked at a predetermined position when the locking member is received in the recess; and

wherein the medium-supporting member has an opening beside the recess.

15. (original): A medium feeding apparatus that incorporates the medium cassette according to Claim 14.

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16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended): ~~The medium cassette according to Claim 16;~~

A medium cassette that holds a stack of print medium therein, comprising:

a supporting member having a groove formed therein;

a medium guide member including a first member and a second member that slides under the stack of print medium, said medium guide member being detachably mounted to said supporting member and guided in the groove to and from the stack of print medium; and

a medium-supporting member on which the stack of print medium is placed, said medium-supporting member pushing up the print medium and having an opening formed therein through which said medium guide member can be mounted;

wherein the medium guide member further includes a first projection that extends from a bottom surface of the second member through the groove;

wherein the medium guide member includes second projections that project substantially leftward and rightward with respect to the direction so that the supporting member is sandwiched between the bottom surface of the second member and the second projections.

18. (currently amended): The medium cassette according to Claim 17, wherein each of the second projections ~~[[has]]~~ includes a plurality of stepped portions so that the supporting member can be held in a sandwiched relation between the bottom surface of the second member and a corresponding one of the plurality of stepped portions.

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19. (currently amended): The medium cassette according to Claim ~~[[16,]]~~ 17, wherein said medium guide member includes a locking member and the medium-supporting member ~~[[has]]~~ includes a recess formed therein by a drawing operation, wherein said medium guide member is locked at a predetermined position when the locking member is received in the recess.

20. (original): A medium feeding apparatus that incorporates the medium cassette according to Claim 19.

21. (currently amended): A medium feeding apparatus that incorporates the medium cassette according to Claim ~~[[16.]]~~ 17.

22. (currently amended): The medium cassette according to Claim ~~[[16,]]~~ 19, wherein the medium-supporting member ~~[[has]]~~ includes an opening beside the recess.

23. (currently amended): A medium feeding apparatus that incorporates the medium cassette according to Claim ~~[[20.]]~~ 22.

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